

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A multibeam scan apparatus comprising:

a light source having a unitary structure including semiconductor laser diodes and coupling lenses arranged in a main scan direction, the semiconductor laser diodes being positioned so that light beams emitted by the semiconductor laser diodes ~~have~~ form images on a same area of a scanned surface area and substantially cross each other at a point;

a light beam restricting unit shaping the light beams from the laser diodes through the coupling lenses so that the light beams have a given spot size, the light beam restricting unit being positioned close to the point;

a deflection unit ~~polygonal mirror~~; and

a scan lens causing the light beams reflected by the ~~polygonal mirror~~ deflection unit to form images on a scanned surface;

wherein:

the light beam restricting unit is incorporated into each of reflection surfaces of the deflection unit ~~polygonal mirror~~; and

the spot size of the light beams incident to the ~~polygonal mirror~~ deflection unit is larger than a size of each of the reflection surfaces in at least the main scan direction.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ A multibeam scan apparatus ~~as claimed in claim 2,~~ comprising:

a light source having semiconductor laser diodes and coupling lenses arranged in a main scan direction, the semiconductor laser diodes being positioned so that light beams emitted by the semiconductor laser diodes substantially cross each other at a point;

a light beam restricting unit shaping the light beams from the laser diodes through the coupling lenses so that the light beams have a given spot size, the light beam restricting unit being positioned close to the point;

a deflection unit; and

a scan lens causing the light beams reflected by the deflection unit to form images on a scanned surface;

wherein:

the light beam restricting unit is incorporated into each of reflection surfaces of the deflection unit; and

the spot size of the light beams incident to the deflection unit is larger than a size of each of the reflection surfaces in at least the main scan direction,

wherein each of the reflection surfaces of the ~~polygonal mirror~~ deflection unit has an edge shorter than surfaces of the ~~polygonal mirror~~ deflection unit in which the reflection surfaces are formed.

Claims 4-14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A multibeam scan apparatus comprising:

a light source emitting light beams from respective light sources formed in a unitary structure and arranged in a main scanning direction, outgoing beam directions in which the light beams travel being arranged so as to cross each other at a point, and the light beam forming images on having a same area of a scanned surface;

a deflection unit deflecting the light beams;

an optical unit causing the light beams from the deflection unit to form images on a scanned surface; and

~~an aperture~~ a light beam restricting mechanism situated close to said point and arranged to shape the light beams, ~~wherein said aperture is~~ and incorporated into deflection surfaces of said deflection unit to shape the light beams to have a given spot size before the light beams enter said optical unit that forms the images, the light beams incident to the deflection unit having a spot size that is larger than a size of each of the deflection surfaces.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ A multibeam scan apparatus ~~as claimed in claim~~
~~14 comprising:~~

a light source emitting light beams, outgoing beam directions in which the light beams travel being arranged so as to cross each other at a point;

a deflection unit deflecting the light beams;

an optical unit causing the light beams from the deflection unit to form images on a scanned surface; and

a light beam restricting mechanism situated close to said point and arranged to shape the light beams, and incorporated into deflection surfaces of said deflection unit to shape the light beams to have a given spot size before the light beams enter said optical unit that forms the images, the light beams incident to the deflection unit having a spot size that is larger than a size of each of the deflection surfaces,

wherein the light beams emitted by the light source cross each other at a position close to the deflection unit,

wherein each of the deflection surfaces of the deflection unit has an edge shorter than surfaces of the deflection unit in which the deflection surfaces are formed.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~The~~ A multibeam scan apparatus ~~as claimed in claim~~
~~15~~ comprising:

a light source emitting light beams, outgoing beam directions in which the light beams
travel being arranged so as to cross each other at a point;

a deflection unit deflecting the light beams;

an optical unit causing the light beams from the deflection unit to form images on a
scanned surface; and

a light beam restricting mechanism situated close to said point and arranged to shape
the light beams, and incorporated into and extending into deflection surfaces of said
deflection unit to shape the light beams to have a given spot size before the light beams enter
said optical unit that forms the images, the light beams incident to the deflection unit having a
spot size that is larger than a size of each of the deflection surfaces,

wherein each of the deflection surfaces of the deflection unit has an edge shorter than
surfaces of the deflection unit in which the deflection surfaces are formed.

Claims 18-36 (Cancelled).

Claim 37 (New): A multibeam scan apparatus comprising:

a light source having a unitary structure including semiconductor laser diodes and
coupling lenses arranged in a main scan direction, the semiconductor laser diodes being
positioned so that light beams emitted by the semiconductor laser diodes form images on a
same area of a scanned surface area and substantially cross each other at a point;

a light beam restricting unit shaping the light beams from the laser diodes through the coupling lenses so that the light beams have a given spot size, the light beam restricting unit being positioned close to the point;

a deflection unit; and

a scan lens causing the light beams reflected by the deflection unit to form images on a scanned surface;

wherein:

the light beam restricting unit is incorporated into each of reflection surfaces of the deflection unit;

the spot size of the light beams incident to the deflection unit is larger than a size of each of the reflection surfaces in at least the main scan direction; and

wherein each of the deflection surfaces of the deflection unit has an edge shorter than surfaces of the deflection unit in which the deflection surfaces are formed.